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Industrial Safety Bulletin May 1932

Maine Department of Labor and Industry

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BULLETIN

MAY 1932

Few of our Maine industries, particularly the small and medium sized ones, realize the importance of doing safety work and the money to be saved. The advantages can only be had by those concerns who actually make the effort in their own plants and this effort to be effective must not only be thoroughly initiated, but also afterward sustained by earnest and interested executives.

(Signed) ARTHUR N. STOWELL,
N. S. Stowell & Co., Inc.

Issued by
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Augusta, Maine

Plant Routing:

Superintendent
Master Mechanic
Steam Supt.
Electrical Supt.
Maintenance Supt.
Safety Director
Plant Nurse
Chairman, Safety Com.
Mr. .....
Mr. .....
Mr. .....
Mr. .....
Mr. .....
Mr. .....

Please read thoroughly and pass along promptly according to this routing. One idea thus gained may save a life.

S-A-F-E-T-Y
spells
GOOD BUSINESS

We suggest that this cover be folded back on heavy line and clipped. Check names of those you wish to read the material in this Bulletin.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY - - AUGUSTA, MAINE

CHARLES O. BEALS, Commissioner

Walter J. Brennan — Safety Engineer
Edward K. Sawyer — Inspector
Minnie E. Hanley — Woman Factory Inspector

Vol. I — May 1932 — No. 10

SAFETY COSTS BUT A THOUGHT

An electrical worker, using a section of crate as a ladder, furnished the subject for this month's editorial. So typical of the major portion of Maine's industrial injuries was this instance that it may well be taken as a picture of industry's safety problem.

Some electrical work was necessary on the side of a building. The electrical contractor did not anticipate the need for occasional climbing and did not equip his trucks with ladders. Naturally the worker turned to some makeshift contrivance as can be expected of those workers whose employers and supervisors refuse to lead the way by education and equipment.

The job's value was perhaps $25.00 with a potential profit such as could be counted on the fingers of one hand. In pursuit of such a trivial sum a worker was permitted to jeopardize any amount of his employer's money up to $6000.00, the maximum compensation penalty under the Maine Act. Two nails and a frail slat stood between the worker and a painful, crippling injury; two nails and a frail slat was the foundation upon which the employer and his foreman based a profit.

In certain of our plants where outstanding results in accident prevention are had the electrical worker would have had a safe ladder as a part of his truck equipment. His foreman, in ordering the job done would have included cautions against hazards certain to be encountered. The worker would have subordinated any temptation he might have felt to "take a chance" to the iron-clad safety rules imposed by his employer. He would have been educated to recognize hazards and concede the folly of chance-taking.

Safety costs but little, usually but a thought; accidents cost much and are utter waste. A large part of the million dollars paid annually by our industries as direct costs of injuries will come back as "dividends" when the investment of a safety thought before each act becomes the rule in our industries.

FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED

A few typical injuries such as can occur in your plant are listed below. That which has happened can again happen. Those who believe an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure will request the Safety Engineering Service of this Department to collaborate with them in protection against that which has been paid for elsewhere.

A solution used for cleaning shoes caused a severe inflammation around finger nails.

Stick flew back from rip saw, severely injuring fingers and hand.

Molten metal in foundry spilled into shoes to severely burn worker's feet.

Using stick on belt. Belt threw stick to strike worker in stomach, necessitating an operation.

While working on upper rolls, the journal of lower rolls engaged trouser leg to strain leg muscles.

Blanket napping caught fire, fatally burning worker engaged in bagging nap.

Worker suffered contusions and abrasions of leg when trousers caught in gear of laundry washing machine.

Worker handling defective extension leader received shock, causing him to fall into ash pit.

Worker poured sulphuric acid into pitcher containing ammonia. Fumes caused cough of asthmatic nature.

While looking into plug hole of Scribner Dye Kettle hot water blew into worker's face.

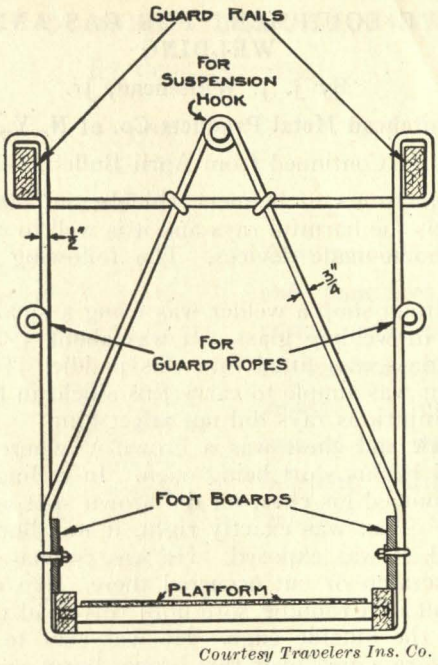
100% QUALIFIED IN FIRST AID

A chart prepared by the New England Tel. & Tel. Co. as of April 1st, 1932, shows that the Eastern Division, comprising the State of Maine, is 100% qualified in first aid.

The Division has 569 employees and with the certified first aid training as a basis have produced some outstanding safety performances. The foremen are directly charged with safety administration and are held strictly to a constant consideration of the safety phase of their work. Enthusiasm for prevention work characterizes the Division's safety efforts.

Mr. D. J. Desmond and Mr. C. H. Lavigne deserve great credit for their leadership and originality.

The most effective kind of a hit is the one where some fellow worker is not on the receiving end.



Courtesy Travelers Ins. Co.

A WELL DESIGNED PAINTERS' SCAFFOLD

Through the courtesy of The Travelers Insurance Company we are able to reproduce the painters' scaffold shown above. Such an outstanding safety device can be adapted to many industrial uses and is worthy of study.

Too often we find crews doing repair and inspection work using all manner of equipment, utterly unsuited to the job from a safety standpoint.

Note the double guard rails which offer perfect protection to workers. The foot boards serve a very useful purpose in preventing the fall of material and tools such as might be loose on the platform.

The testing of rigging and scaffolds should be a routine procedure and can be done by raising such equipment off the ground and applying a load several times heavier than that destined for it in actual use.

Can you be sure that first aid cases return for re-treatment and inspection? Let this Service help you.

The "over-all" goggles made to be worn over spectacles are the most popular type developed in late years.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR GAS AND ELECTRIC WELDING

By J. J. Whitehead, Jr.

Whitehead Metal Products Co. of N. Y., Inc.

(Continued from April Bulletin)

The manufacturers of helmets, shields and masks use material that repels the harmful rays and it is well to caution against the use of home-made devices. The following will illustrate our point.

In one railroad shop a welder was using a small paddle fitted with a piece of welding glass. It was about 3½" wide and 8" long. The glass was fitted into this paddle. The welder explained that it was simple to carry this shield in his hip pocket. He said the injurious rays did not affect him.

On his neck and chest was a brown V where his skin had been exposed by his shirt being open. In calling his attention to this he thumped his chest on the brown spot and said it was burnt tough. That was exactly right, it was burnt and by the rays to which it was exposed. He was comparatively safe as long as no scratch or cut occurred there. We explained that it would result in a running sore until this dead tissue could be healed from the outside edge. He was sent to the company doctor and wore a pad over this brown burnt spot for months before, by treatment, they were able to heal or cure the condition. This could not happen were the proper equipment used. Most rigid specifications are set up for the manufacture of these masks, helmets, and shields.

Another man welding sheet rails used an old window curtain with a piece of glass sewn in it. This was formed into a helmet which enabled him to throw it back over his head, when a car came. The pantasote wore off by constantly moving it back and forth so that the glass was really set in cheese cloth. His face was exposed to the rays and as a result sores appeared. This caused facial disfigurement which was extremely painful and costly to his company.

For protection while welding either a welding helmet or handshield may be used. This is determined by the welder's preference in the matter. The question of what shade of glass to use is often asked. The shade is determined by the amperes used and has been carefully worked out. For electric welding the shades run from shade 6 to shade 14. Shade six is for very light work where an average of 30 amperes are used. Shade 8 is used for an average between 30 and 75 amperes. Shade 10 for an average of 75 to 200 amperes. Shade 12 when 200 to 400 amperes are used. Shade 14 for over 400 amperes and carbon arcs.

(To be continued)

PERCENTAGE OF INFECTIONS FOLLOWING INJURY

By Industries—1931

Woods Operations	1.57%
Bridge Construc.	2.42%
Boats and Canoes	2.78%
Struc. Steel	2.82%
Public Utilities	3.10%
Road Construction	3.27%
Quarrying-Finish.	4.37%
Bldg. Construc.	4.52%
Printers	4.77%
Pulp and Paper	4.98%
Pub. Employees	5.32%
Lumber	5.75%
Lime-Cement	6.03%
Foundry-Mch.	6.34%
Ship Bldg.	7.57%
Garage	7.60%

The "trivial" scratches and punctures of this month are sometimes the amputations of next month. How many tons of coal would your infection charges have bought?

Average for all industries—1931—7.82%

Woodworking	8.10%
Misc.	8.90%
Woolen	8.96%
Cotton	9.70%
Hotel-Rest.	11.14%
Mercantile	11.68%
Laundries	15.30%
Shoes	18.00%
Canning	22.60%

Freedom from infection is had only when the highest plant authority establishes a plant first-aid policy and demands compliance therewith, dealing with violations personally.

(The above material was had from a study of the 13,912 injuries reported to the Industrial Accident Commission in "First Reports of Injury" during 1931.)

CONSIDER YOUR LADDERS

Recently a worker fell backwards into moving machinery when a ladder rung upon which he was standing broke. As we see the hundreds of unsafe ladders in the plants we visit it seems that there should be many more such accidents for the makeshift construction and the dilapidated condition of a major portion of ladders seen certainly set the stage for such frightful injuries.

What has happened can happen. A worker of yours can crash to the floor when a rung breaks, a rail fractures or, for want of safety feet, a ladder slips. Insurance against the costly injuries coming out of ladder failure costs nothing but a little insistence and good will coupled with the education of those who build and use ladders.

Why not attack your ladder problem before trouble results? A half-hour session with those men who have to do with ladders will start the work and a second session a week later will provide the check-up so essential to ladder-injury immunity. The questions below will serve as a guide and in some degree serve as a rating of your equipment; only when an affirmative answer can be given to every question can the ladder hazard be dismissed from mind.

Are your ladders equipped with safety feet to prevent slippage on earth, steel, wood or concrete surfaces?

Are ladders for specific uses fastened in place or equipped with hooks at the top?

Are rungs or steps inserted into the rails? Are rails of clear spruce of high quality or its equivalent? Are rungs of white ash or its equivalent?

Are ladders being used where excessive travel indicates the need for a stairway?

Is there a person in your organization charged with a monthly inspection of ladders and stairs, with authority to condemn?

Are your carpenters given specifications for ladder construction, not left to build according to their whims or from any material at hand?

Are your ladders painted? (Oiling is safer in that defects are not covered against inspection.)

Have you a policy such as warrants the destruction of ladders having cracked rails and taking out of use for repair of ladders having cracked or worn rungs?

Are there certain operations in your plant (oiling, valve adjustments, inspection and the like) where ladders are now used but which could be better and more safely served by stairs and walkways?

Courtesy Travelers Ins. Co.

The ladder article on the opposite page is aimed at conditions such as are shown above. Note the spliced rails, the makeshift construction and the fire burning on the ground nearby.

An injury coming out of the conditions illustrated could logically be charged to the rank indifference of those having authority over plant conditions.

The above apology for a ladder can easily assess costs such as would pay for a twenty-five year supply of the finest, safest ladders on the market.

LAWRENCE PLANT GIVEN PROMINENCE

At the annual safety conference of the Northeastern Division, National Cement Association, held on April 12th at Albany, N. Y., the Lawrence Cement Plant of Thomaston, Maine, was given much prominence.

Mr. C. H. Sonntag, General Manager, presided over the Albany sessions while Mr. John Pomeroy, Chief Electrician, contributed a highly valuable paper on the subject "Avoiding Electrical Accidents."

Mr. O. E. Wishman, Safety Engineer, contributed to the Symposium "Winning the Association Safety Trophy" while Mr. James Thompson, Chemist, as well as safety enthusiast, read the paper prepared by Dr. Sappington, Director Division of Industrial Health, National Safety Council, entitled "Reviews of Present Ideas on Prevention and Control of Infection."

The meeting was well attended and from the one hundred representatives of plants scattered over the eastern seaboard and Canada came many helpful ideas and educational discussion.

W. J. Brennan, Safety Engineer of this Department, was able to attend through the courtesy and kindness of Manager Sonntag, speaking on the afternoon program on the subject "Consider the Near and Minor Injuries."

WANTED—A TOURNIQUET!

A fragment of steel, flying from a ruptured balance wheel, severed an artery in a worker's leg. For want of a tourniquet and a familiarity with its uses the man bled to death.

Every plant should give thought to this matter of providing tourniquets at certain points where one is likely to be needed. Woodworking shops, machine shops, millwright tool boxes, departments containing heavy machinery and on jobs where cutting tools are used are ideal locations for such life-saving devices.

Small cabinets of distinctive color and shape are commonly used and workers should be trained as to their location and the expert application of the appliance.

Twenty-one of the eighty industrial fatalities reported in Pennsylvania during January were caused by falling objects.

Compensation agreements in 4839 cases handled in Pennsylvania during January involved payments of $963,382. Two hundred and fifty-four permanent disability cases were included.

Keyes Fibre Company is having great success with the main entrance safety blackboard, showing safety hints and cautions.

OUTSTANDING SAFETY PERFORMANCES

St. Croix Paper Company: No lost-time accidents suffered for 222 consecutive days to May 1st, setting up new plant record.

Fraser Companies, Ltd.: Madawaska, Maine, mills of this Company have operated seven and one-half months without a lost-time accident.

Oxford Paper Company (Maine Coated Paper Division): Leads Division 11, Paper Industry Annual Safety Contest with a perfect score, having suffered no lost-time accidents since the Contest opened, July 1st, 1931.

Rogers Fibre Company: Kennebunk Mill completed 200 consecutive calendar days without a lost-time accident on April 5th, 1932. Bar Mills plant completed 200 consecutive no lost-time accident days on April 10th.

Hollingsworth & Whitney Company: The Madison Mill of this Company has a perfect record in the Paper Industry Annual Safety Contest, Group D, which opened July 1st, 1931.

A lost-time accident terminated a magnificent safety performance at the Waterville mill of this Company, breaking a 125-day record and a 94-day record for all mills.

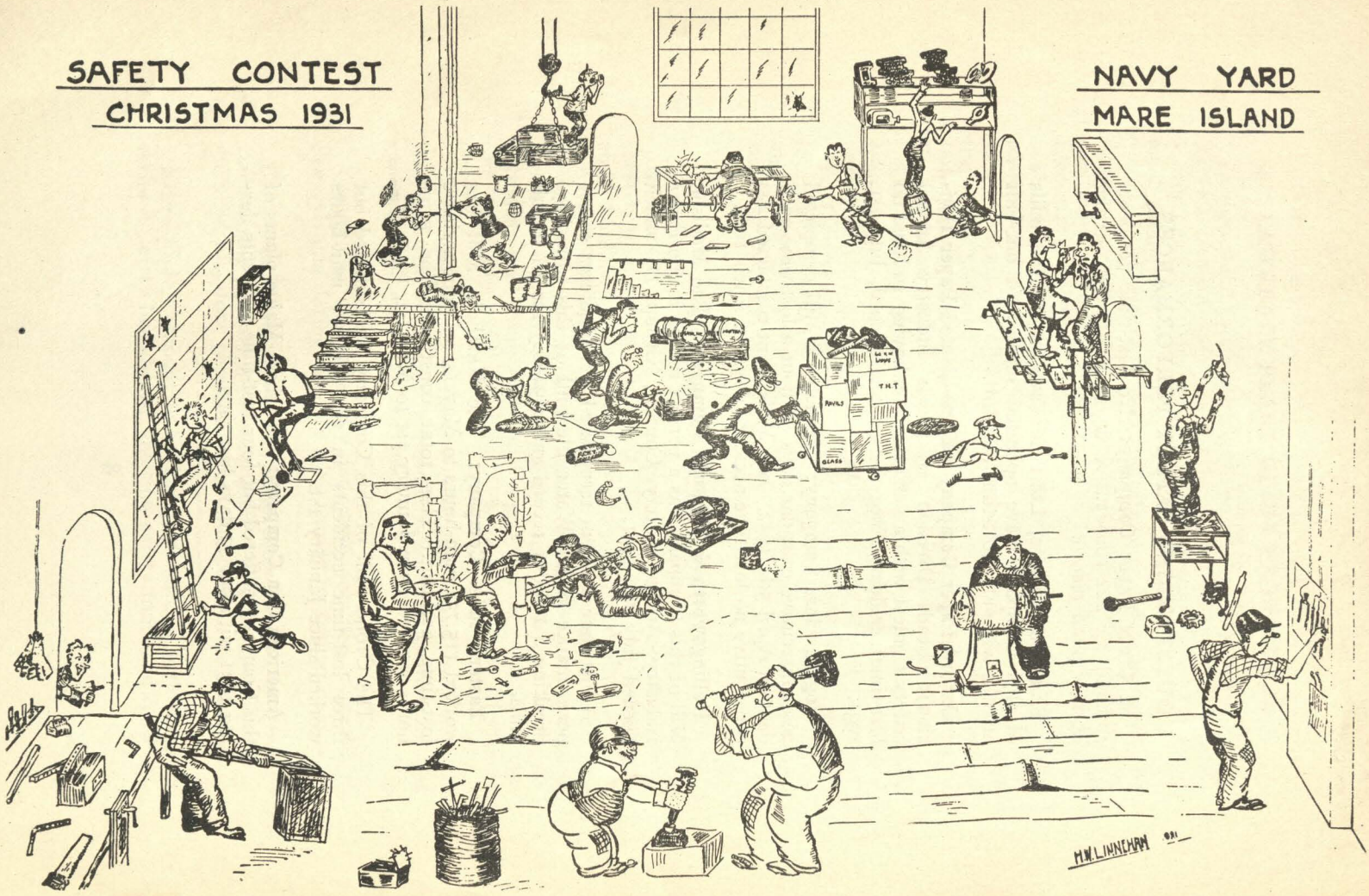
Eastern Mfg. Company: The Katahdin Mill has worked 115,757 man-hours to May 1st without a single lost-time accident. This total constitutes the man-hours worked from January 1st to May 1st, 1932.

The Orono Mill of this Company has suffered but three lost-time accidents in the 162,799 man-hours worked since January 1st.

American Can Company: The three Maine plants of this Company suffered but four lost-time accidents during 1931 with but 49 days lost time.

SAFETY CONTEST
CHRISTMAS 1931

NAVY YARD
MARE ISLAND



CAN YOU FIND THE 367 HAZARDS AND UNSAFE PRACTICES SHOWN ABOVE?